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Environmental Protection
Agency

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Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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EPA ORDERS CLEANUP OF SAUGET AREA 1 DEAD CREEK SITE; WORK AT SAUGET AREA 2 SITE Q RECENTLY COMPLETED

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 yesterday ordered Solutia, Inc., and Monsanto to excavate 50,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from the Dead Creek portion of the Sauget Area 1 Superfund site. The site is on the East side of Illinois Route 3, near the Mississippi River in Sauget and Cahokia, IL.

The creek sediments are contaminated with high levels of PCB's, dioxins, heavy metals, and other organic contaminants. The order requires Solutia and Monsanto—members of a group of responsible parties identified by EPA—to place the materials in a secure 5-acre landfill to be built next to Dead Creek, about 500 feet south of Queeny Avenue.

Excavation work will start at Queeny Avenue in Sauget, continuing down the creek to just west of Route 3 in Cahokia. Design work for the project will begin in the next few weeks, with excavation likely to start in the fall or winter months.

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Once the Sauget Area 1 project is completed, The landfill will be monitored long into the future to assure that contamination does not leak into the surrounding soils and groundwater.

In related news, a \$2.2 million cleanup at the Site Q portion of the Sauget Area 2 Superfund site wrapped up in April.

Sauget Area 2 is comprised of 5 separate contaminated source areas, totaling about 344 acres. Site Q, the largest of the source areas, lies along the eastern bank of the river. When the Mississippi River floods locally, Site Q can be completely covered with water, causing the contaminated materials from the site to mix with the river system.

The recent cleanup focused on about 30 acres in the southern portion of Site Q, where two ponds are located. The ponds support an ecologically sensitive habitat and serve as a stopover point for migratory birds, including some endangered species. The cleanup included removal and proper disposal of more than 3,200 buried drums and 17,000 tons of contaminated soil, which was sent to a special waste landfill in Waynoka, OK. Following the cleanup, Site Q was seeded to provide vegetative cover and reduce future erosion.

An EPA-managed investigation of all 5 source areas at Sauget Area 2 is scheduled to begin later this year.

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